

K London A 876-6-1
Common Council
DECLARATION

87
Touching the Weighing of

GOODS

AND

MERCHANDIZES

AT THE

King's Beams;

WITH

**An Act of Common-Council for
the Regulation thereof.**



Printed by *Samuel Roycroft*, Printer to the Honourable
City of London. 1681.



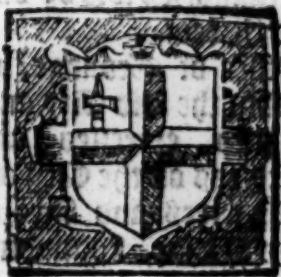
Ward Major.

Commune Concilium tentum in Camera Guild-
ball, Civitatis London, Die Veneris, 17^o die
Junij Anno Dom. 1681. Annoq; Regni Re-
gis Caroli Secundi Anglⁱ, &c. xxxiii^o.

It is Ordered by this Court, That the Declara-
tion and Bill touching the Kings Beams, which
were passed at the last Common-Council: As
likewise the Bill for raising four Fifteens now pas-
sed, shall be forthwith Printed and Published.



Wagstaffe.



Commune Concilium tentum in Camera Guild-
hall Civitatis London, die Veneris, xij^o die Maij, Anno
Domini 1681. Annoque Regni Domini nostri Caroli
Secundi, Anglⁱ, &c. 33^o. coram Patient^r Ward Mil^r,
Majore Civitatis London, Thoma Aleyu Mil^r & Baro-
net^r, Johanne Frederick Mil^r, Thoma Bludworth Mil^r,
Willielmo Turner Mil^r, Georgio Waterman Mil^r, Rober-
to Clayton, Mil^r, Aldermannis, Georgio Treby Mil^r,
Recordatore dictæ Civitatis, Johanne Moore Mil^r,
Willielmo Pritchard Mil^r, Henrico Tulse Mil^r, Jacobo
Smith Mil^r, Roberto Jeffery Mil^r, Johanne Shorter,
Mil^r, Thoma Gould Mil^r, Johanne Peake Mil^r,
Thoma Beckford Mil^r, Johanne Chapman Mil^r, Thoma
Pilkington Ar^r Aldermannis, & Henrico Cornish Ar^r Al-
dermanno, ac uno Vicecom^r dictæ Civitatis, Nec-
non majore parte Communiariorum ejusdem Civitatis
in Comuni Concil^r tunc & ibidem Assemblat.

A Declaration touching the Weighing of Goods and Merchan-
dizes at the Kings Beams: With an Act of Common Coun-
cil for the Regulation thereof.

Foresmuch as it appertaineth to Justice and true Dealing,
 That to all men be uprightly given, true weight, and for
 that cause there are, and from the time whereof the memo-
 ry of man is not to the contrary, have been within the Ci-
 ty of London and Liberties thereof, Common Beams, u-
 sually called the Kings Beams, for the more just and equal weighing
 of

of all Goods and Merchandizes sold or bartered within the City aforesaid, and Liberties thereof.

And whereas the Office of Cronage, or weighing of all Goods and Merchandizes within the said City and Liberties thereof, hath time out of mind been used, exercised, and enjoyed by the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the City of London, and by several Royal and Ancient Charters and Acts of Parliament confirmed unto, and vested in the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the said City.

And whereas the ancient usual Rates and Duties paid for weighing of Goods and Merchandizes at the said Kings Beams, are as followeth; Viz. for Iron the Ton xx d. for Hadder the Bale xvj d. for every Draught from 14 l. weight to 4 C. weight, vj d. for every Draught from 4 C. weight to 6 C. weight, xij d. for every Draught from 6 C. weight to 8 C. weight, ij s. for every Draught from 8 C. weight to 10 C. weight, iij s. iij d. for every Draught from 10 C. weight to 12 C. weight, iij s. viij d. And for every Draught from 12 C. weight and upwards, vj s. viij d. The which Rates were at all times paid by the Buyer and Seller, viz. Three fourth parts thereof by the Seller, and the other fourth part by the Buyer. Now the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Right Worshipful the Aldermen and Commons in this Common-Council Assembled, taking into their serious Consideration the increase of the Trade of this City, and being desirous to encourage both the Seller and the Buyer of all Goods and Merchandizes usually bought and sold by weight, to make use of the said Kings Beams, to the intent that Right may be done between the Buyer and Seller, Do hereby declare that an Abatement shall be made of the said Ancient Rates and Duties unto all Persons that shall be Sellers to the Strangers of the said City, in Manner and under the Proviso's and Conditions following; (Viz.) That the Stranger of this City buying of a Foreigner or Unstranger, any Goods and Merchandizes usually sold by weight, shall from henceforth be wholly acquitted of the said fourth part of the said Duties and Rates which have been paid by the Stranger buyer thereof. And that Unstrangers and Foreigners selling to a Stranger of the said City, shall henceforth be abated out of the said Ancient Duties and Rates, and pay as followeth; Viz. Whereas the Seller being an Unstranger or Foreigner, for his part of the said Ancient Duties and Rates due by Prescription, ought to pay for every Draught from 14 l. weight to 4 C. weight, four pence half penny: The Foreigner and Unstranger shall pay from 14 l. weight to 1 C. weight, but ij d. And also for the weighing of figgs and Lippoyz Raisons by the Barrel, not exceeding 2 C. weight, ij d. and from 1 C. weight to 4 C. weight, but iij d. And whereas the Foreigners and Unstrangers ought to pay for every Draught from 4 C. weight to 6 C. weight, ix d. there shall be paid
but

but vj d. And whereas the Forreigners and Unfreemen ought to pay for every Draught from 6 C. weight to 8 C. weight, j s. iiij d. there shall be paid but x d. And whereas the Forreigner and Unfreeman ought to pay for every Draught from 8 C. weight to 10 C. weight, ij s. vj d. there shall be paid but xvj d. And whereas the Forreigner and Unfreeman ought to pay for every Draught from 10 C. weight to 12 C. weight, iij s. vj d. there shall be paid but xx d. And whereas the Forreigner and Unfreeman ought to pay for every Draught from 12 C. weight and upwards v s. there shall be paid for every Draught from 12 C. weight to 19 C. weight, but ij s. and for every Draught from 19 C. weight to 22 C. weight, but ij s. iiij d. and for every Draught from 22 C. weight and upwards, to any weight that may be conveniently weighed, but iij s. And the Forreigner and Unfreeman, Seller, shall hereafter pay for the weighing of every Ton of Iron xiiij d. and for every Bale of Hadder x d. and no more.

And it is hereby further declared, That if any Unfreeman or Forreigner shall at any time after the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist now next ensuing, sell, barter, and deliver any Goods or Merchandizes, usually sold by weight, before the same shall be weighed, at one of the said Common Beams; Or if any Unfreeman or Forreigner, Seller, after his Goods are weighed at one of the said Common Beams, shall not upon Demand pay the said Rates mentioned to be abated in this Declaration, to such Officer as is or shall be so appointed to receive the same, that then such Unfreeman or Forreigner, Seller, shall not only from the time of such omission, to weigh his, or their Goods, or refusal or omission after such Demand, to pay for the weighing thereof, loose the benefit of the Abatements intended by this Declaration, but shall for ever hereafter be subject to pay the said Ancient full Duties and Rates, due by Prescription unto the Major and Commonalty and Citizens of this City, for the weighing of all his or their Goods and Merchandizes at the Kings Beams, or Common Beams aforesaid. Any thing herein contained to the contrary thereof in any wise notwithstanding.

And be it further declared by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Merchant or other Person, not being free of this City, being his Majesties free-born Subject, or made a Denizen, or Naturalized according to Law, shall at any time hereafter be desirous to become a freeman of this City, That then such Merchant, or other Person unfree, having first obtained his freedom of this City, according to the Custome thereof,

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shall not be obliged to take upon him either the Office of Alderman or Sheriff of this City, or County of Middlesex, within the space of Seven years next after the time of his becoming a freeman thereof. Any Law, Usage, or Custome of this City to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding.

Wagstasse.



A N
A C T
 For the better
REGULATION
 Of the Weighing of
G O O D S
 AND
MERCHANDIZES
 AT THE
Kings Beams.

Whereas the Office of Cronage, or weighing of all Goods and Merchandizes within the City of London, and Liberties th' reof, hath time out of mind been used, exercised, and enjoyed by the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of

of the City of London, and by severall Royal and Ancient Charters and Acts of Parliament confirmed unto, and vested in the Mayor, Commonalty, and Citizens of the said City, and for that cause there are, and from the time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, have been within the said City and Liberties thereof, Common Beams, usually called the Kings Beams, for the more just and equal weighing of all Goods and Merchandizes sold or bartered within the said City and Liberties.

Be it therefore Enacted by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, the Right Worshipful the Aldermen, and the Commons of this City in Common-Council Assembled, and by Authority of the same, That from and after the Feast of the Nativity of St. John Baptist now next ensuing, the sworn Weighers and other Officers appointed, or which shall hereafter be chosen and appointed by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this City for the time being, for the weighing of Goods and Merchandizes at the Common Beams of this City, and for the better Regulation thereof, and Collection of the Duties for the same, as often as notice shall be left in writing at the Weighhouse of the time and place where any Goods or Merchandizes are to be weighed, shall bring the Weights, Triangles, and Beams to the place where the Goods are to be weighed at his own Charge, when the Duty of the Goods to be weighed amounts unto Ten shillings or more. And when the Goods to be weighed do lye upon any Key or Wharf, or in any Warehouse where the Triangles and Scales may work, the Merchants, Seller or Buyer, shall not be charged with Rolling of his or their Goods or Merchandizes to the Scale, but the Rolling thereof to the Scale shall be in such case at the Weighers Charge.

Provided always, and be it Enacted and Declared by the Authority aforesaid, That when and as often as the Duties and Rates mentioned in the Declaration of Common Council of this City, Intituled, A Declaration touching the Weighing of Goods and Merchandizes at the Kings Beams, to be taken for weighing of Goods and Merchandizes, shall not amount unto Ten shillings, That then the Merchant or other Seller thereof, shall be at the charge of the carrying and recarrying the Triangle, Beam, and Weights (unless the Goods be weighed at the Weighhouse). And that the Merchant, or other Seller, shall also be at the charge of bringing the Goods out of the Vaults and Cellars, and other places where the Triangles and Beams cannot stand for weighing thereof, or otherwise to allow the Weighers Porters reasonable satisfaction for their Labour.

And

And forasmuch as the Weighhouse before the late Dreadful Fire which happened in London, Anno 1666. was, and time out of mind hath been, the Common Market appointed for the buying and selling of Hops within this City, and Liberties thereof, and the said Weighhouse was by the said Fire burnt and consumed, by reason whereof the said Market hath been of late time discontinued, but another Weighhouse more large and commodious for the reception of Hops, hath since been built in, or near Little Escheap, in the Ward of Billingsgate within the said City of London. Be it therefore Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Weighhouse so built, situated, and appointed, shall from henceforth be, and be deemed and used, as and for the Common Office for Tonnage or weighing of all Goods and Merchandizes whatsoever, used to be weighed or sold by weight. And it is hereby further Enacted and Declared, That it is, and shall be also the Common Market for the Buying and Selling of all Hops of English growth brought into the said City and Liberties thereof by Foreigners or Unfreemen; And that no Hops of English growth shall at any time hereafter be weighed by the Weigher, or such other Officers of this City appointed, or hereafter to be appointed by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this City, save at the said Weighhouse only, or by some of the Beams there and thereunto belonging, upon pain that if any Weigher shall act contrary thereunto; shall for every such Offence, upon due proof by one or more credible witnesses to be made before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this City for the time being, be ipso facto displaced, and for ever disabled to intermeddle any more in weighing or attending the said Beam.

And whereas divers Persons, usually called or known by the name of Ticket-Porters, Tackle-Porters, and Fellowship-Porters of this City, and other Porters and Labourers have heretofore frequently in secret manner, and commonly in the night time for their private lucre and gain, presumed to work in the weighing by Triangles and Beams of their own providing of Foreigners and Unfreemens Goods and Merchandizes, after sale hath been made thereof, before the same have been weighed at the said Kings Beams, or any of them, whereby this City hath lost its Ancient Rights and Dues, and oftentimes unjust weights have been used, to the deceit of His Majesties Subjects, and scandal of the Government of this City: For remedy whereof for the future, It is hereby further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That no Tackle-Porter Ticket-Porter, or
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fellowship-Porter, or any other Porter (after the sale of any of the Goods and Merchandizes of any fforeigner or Unfreeman, that are usually bought and sold by weight) shall from henceforth presume to intermeddle or work within this City or liberties thereof, in the weighing of any such Goods or Merchandizes, for any persons whatsoever, unless such Porter or Porters shall be thereunto appointed by one of the Weighers, or other officers appointed, or to be appointed, to attend the said Beams by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this City, upon pain that every such Porter that shall offend contrary hereunto upon due proove thereof by one or more witnesses to be made upon Oath before the said Court, Lord Mayor, and Aldermen, shall by order of the said Court be discharged and put out of the fellowship or Society of Porters, to which such Offender, or Offenders, at the time of his or their Offences shall belong.

And be it further Enacted by the authority aforesaid, That one Act of Common-Council, made the second day of February, Anno Domini 1658. in the time of the Majesty of John Ireton for the Regulation of the said common Beams, commonly called the Kings Beams; And also that one other Act of Common Council made the xxijth day of October, in the xxijth year of his now Majesties Reign, in the time of the Majesty of Sir George Waterman Knight, Intituled, An Act for the weighing of goods at the Kings Beam, and all and every the Clauses and Branches in the said severall Acts of Common-Council contained, and all other Acts of Common-Council repugnant hereunto, are hereby repealed, annulled, and made void to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

And it is also Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Weigher of the said Kings Beams, or other Officer now appointed, or to be appointed by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this City, to attend the said Beams, shall at any time hereafter directly or indirectly, take or receive of any person, or persons, whatsoever, any fee, Gift, or Reward for weighing of the Goods and Merchandizes appointed to be weighed or otherwise than by the said Declaration of Common-Council is directed, or if such Weigher or other Officer appointed, or to be appointed as aforesaid, shall not from henceforth on every Saturday Afternoon, give a fair and just Account to the Chamberlain of this City for the time being, of the Monies by him or them Received for the Rates and Duties as aforesaid, and of whom received, and pay the same into the Chamber of London, for the use of the said Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of this City,
That

That then every such Offender, being convicted of such Offence, either by his own Confession, or by the Oath of one or more credible witnesses to be taken before the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen of this City, shall ipso facto be discharged and removed out of his said Place or Office.

And it is further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the Chamberlain of this City for the time being, shall from henceforth pay unto the Lord Mayor of the City of London for the time being, the Sum of xl l. per Annum, out of the Profits of the said Beams, in consideration of his particular care and trouble to be given in the management of this Affair, and of the Advantages formerly accruing to the Lord Mayor of this City; And that all other Profits to be made and raised out of the Duties of the said Beams, all necessary Charges being first deducted, shall wholly be to the use of the Mayor and Commonalty and Citizens of this City, to be paid and accounted for accordingly to the Chamberlain of the said City for the time being, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever.

Wagstaffe.